



City of San Diego  
Development  
Services and  
Planning  
Departments



# Permit Press

July-August  
2001

Customer Newsletter

## RECOGNITION

### City, Port District get Governor's Historic Preservation Award

*'Quieter Home Program' to  
hush plane noise, retain  
neighborhood history*

The "Quieter Home Program" developed by the San Diego Unified Port District and the City of San Diego's Historical Resources Board has received Governor's Historic Preservation Award for 2001.

The program, designed to soundproof homes affected by noise from the San Diego International Airport, received the award for architectural preservation while providing sound insulation for noise-impacted homes.

This prestigious award is the official preservation award presented by the State of California in recognition of outstanding achievements in historic preservation.

"The San Diego Historical Resources Board is honored to be selected for this award," said Dr. Lynne Christenson, Historic Resources Board Vice-Chair.

"The Board appreciates the community's and affected

**AWARD Continues on Page 2**

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## Holidays

City of San Diego  
Offices Will Be Closed

**Wednesday, July 4  
Independence Day  
Legal Holiday**

**Monday, Sept. 3  
Labor Day  
Legal Holiday**

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**Reminder  
Inspections are  
available after  
3:30 p.m.  
weekdays and on  
weekends. Call  
(858) 492-5070 to  
schedule.**

.....

## New tracking system rollout begins; will run from concept to completion

*Eliminates multiple systems, documents history*

A new project-tracking computer system promising smother, simpler processing for customers is being phased in over the next few months by the Development Services Department.

The new system will be used to track all phases of a project, from concept to completion, and will result in the elimination several other computer systems, which were used just to track one portion of a project's life.

The first phase of the system is being rolled out this summer. Customers submitting plans through Project Management being will be the first affected.

Later this summer, the system will be expanded to handle all appointment scheduling for Development Services.

The new system, which began its rollout June 18, captures information — including name, address and telephone number — when a customer first checks in or makes an appointment.

Customers are also asked for their preferred mode of communication for items such as notices that plans are ready for pickup. The new tracking system can send notices by e-mail, fax or U.S. mail.

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The new  
system will be  
used to track  
all phases of  
a project  
.....

**COMPUTER Continues on Page 3**

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### Residential vacancy rate below 5 percent for fourth straight year

*Companion units allowed  
in some areas outside  
coastal zone*

Companion units are still allowed in many parts of the city as a result of the apartment va-

cancy rate staying below 5 percent in 2000.

The City Council and Planning Commission gave the official certification in March, continuing changes in some requirements that began in 1998

as a result of 1997's vacancy rate dropping below 5 percent, according to commercial sources.

The rate means companion units may be allowed in single-family residential zones outside

**CONDO Continues on Page 3**

## BUDGET

### City Council approves expansion of fire code plan check, inspection staff in new fiscal year

*Other staffing is 'status  
quo' as new development  
growth levels off*

The City Council has approved an addition of 7.5 staff positions to the fire plan check and inspection program as part of the 2002 fiscal year budget,

which began July 1.

The new positions, which are paid for through the city's General Fund, will bring the total fire plan check and inspection staff to 17.

"Positions have not been added to this division's budget since 1994, when we had a valu-

ation of \$800 million in permits issued," said Tina Christiansen, Development Services Department director. "That compares to \$1.8 million in valuation during the current year.

"The mayor and City Council have approved a budget that will allow us to staff adequately

and reduce overtime."

The rest of the Development Services Department's budget is funded through fees charged for plan review and inspection.

"This will allow us to provide the service levels our customers need in the fire plan review and inspection process," she said. ☐

## Award

Continued from Page 1.

property owners early concerns with the protection of historical resources."

Christianson also praised the Port of San Diego staff and its consultants.

"They developed historical studies and solutions that will work to preserve the city's cultural heritage while providing much needed 'peace and quiet' to residents impacted by airport operations," he said.

Board members have been working with the Port District, operators of Lindbergh Field, for more than two years on a way to soundproof homes without having impacts on historical resources.

The historical fabric of the Lindbergh Field neighborhoods is being maintained with the program.

The Uptown and Loma Portal neighborhoods have important historic resources, including early 20th century Victorian, Craftsman, Spanish Colonial and Art Deco homes.

The program's development involved board members, community representatives and city staff. They assisted the Port and its consultants with the development of the program, guidelines for construction, manufacturer's resources and early reviews that streamlined the process.

Lead agency Port of San Diego also worked with the State

Historic Preservation Officer and the Federal Aviation Administration to devise effective noise insulation treatments which would not alter the historical architectural significance of the homes.

Soundproofing measures include window

treatments that would effectively reduce noise while preserving the historic fabric of the community.

Representatives of the agencies receiving the award will be invited to a presentation ceremony in Sacramento with Governor Gray

### SEMINAR REGISTRATION

#### Traffic Control Training Class

Cost: \$42 per person.

For information, call (619) 446-5284

#### Location:

City of San Diego  
Development Services/Environmental Services  
9601 Ridgehaven Ct., Suite 220

#### Please select a seminar

- ☐ August 15  
☐ September 19

#### Please complete the following information

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Company

Address

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Daytime telephone number

Amount enclosed

Please make check payable to:

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**City of San Diego Development Services Department**  
**Land Development Review**  
**Traffic Control Section**  
**1222 First Ave., MS-502**  
**San Diego, CA 92101-4154**

### PUBLICATION ORDER

For information, call (619) 446-5100.

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Item	Each	Qty.
"Remodeling, Do It Right" video	\$10.00	
Land Development Code video	\$10.75	
Land Development Code	\$90.00	
1997 UBC Amendments	\$7.00	
1997 UBC Building Newsletters	\$25.00	

#### Total

To order, enclose a check made payable to **City Treasurer** with the amount of your order and mail to:

**Publications Order**  
**City of San Diego**  
**Development Services Department**  
**1222 First Avenue, MS-401**  
**San Diego, CA 92101-4153**



CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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Development Services Department

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Web sites: <http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services> <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning>

## 'Crime Prevention Through Design' class continues

*Learn how to make your next development a crime-reducer, improve quality of life*

Free classes on how to design projects to be more crime-free are available at the Regional Community Policing Institute-San Diego.

The four-hour Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design class reviews the physical structure of buildings, examining environmental and structural barriers for safety and reduction of crime.

Property owners and managers, community group members, law enforcement officials and business owners are invited to attend.

Four design and usage concepts are explained that can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime. Quality of life also im-

proves for residents and users of the property.

Videos, slides and lectures are followed by a hands-on group exercise, allowing participants to apply the principles they've learned.

The next class is scheduled from 1-5 p.m. Wednesday, August 22, at the former Naval Training Center, 2820 Roosevelt Road, Suite A, Building 201.

Future classes are scheduled in October, and February and April 2002.

For more information, or to register, call (619) 531-2554, or visit the web site at

<http://www.sandiego.gov/police/crime-prevention/rcpi/announce.shtml>

## Art Buxbaum, city's combination inspection chief, dies

Art Buxbaum, the Development Services Department's Chief of Combination Inspection since 1989, passed away July 15, 2001 following a 10-year bout with cancer.

*Buxbaum*



Buxbaum helped train and organize the Combination Inspection Division in the department, which inspects all trades in single-family and duplex residential projects. It is considered a model inspection program and has been studied and copied by building departments around the world.

A leader in the construction-inspection field, Buxbaum served on several statewide code committees and had been an active voice in the International Conference of Building Officials and International Association of Electrical Inspectors. At the time of his death, he was International Vice President of IAEI and would have been International President in 2004.

Buxbaum joined the City of San Diego following 27 years with the City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety. With Los Angeles, Buxbaum was considered the city's "high rise expert," and was active in investigating effects of the 1971 Sylmar earthquake on structures throughout the city, as well as serving as an electrical inspector, fire and life safety inspector and Senior Electrical Inspector.

Born in New York City, Buxbaum was on his own at age 14 and had such varied jobs as farm hand, resort lifeguard, subway maintenance electrician and electrical contractor. During World War II, he served in the Navy.

He is survived by two sons and three grandchildren. Services were held July 21.

## New Screens, Forms

*The new Development Services Department tracking systems keeps customer information on file.*

*Information on submittal requirements and plan pickup changes with the new tracking system. This information can be delivered by U.S. Mail, fax or e-mail.*

## Computer

**Continued from Page 1.**

For repeat customers, the Development Services Department will have this information on file after the first visit.

In addition to the new customer information, several letters and forms customers receive have changed.

The new notices are used for functions such as plan submittal, when reviewer comments are

made and when plans are ready for pickup. This type of information can be delivered to customers by standard mail, e-mail or fax, based on information on the customer database.

If you have any questions on the new system, please ask a staff member.

## Condo

**Continued from Page 1.**

of the coastal zone and agriculturally zoned properties outside the Future Urbanizing Area.

Issues evaluated during the planning review include: physical site requirements of the companion unit regulations; conditions of occu-

pancy of the companion and primary units; ensuring companion units do not become more than 5 percent of the single dwelling unit housing stock in the community; that there are adequate public facilities in the community.

For more information, call (619) 446-5000.



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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City of San Diego Development Services Department  
1222 First Avenue MS-401  
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City of San Diego  
Development Services Department

### HOW TO REACH US

#### Express, After Hours Services

##### Express Plan Check Limited

Construction Plan Check ..... (619) 446-5300  
Engineering Services ..... (619) 446-5460  
Fire Plan Check ..... (619) 446-5440

After Hours/Weekend Building  
Inspections ..... (858) 492-5070

#### Services by FAX

For printouts of plan clearances. You will be  
faxed the printout or mailed a copy.  
PlanFinder Touchtone Line ..... (858) 581-7171  
PermitFax Line ..... (619) 236-7687

#### Service Telephone Numbers

Address Coordinator ..... (619) 446-5411  
Code Enforcement ..... (619) 236-5500  
Community Plans ..... (619) 235-5200  
Demolition/Removal/Relocation; Grading; Elec-  
trical, Mechanical, Plumbing, Gas Permits;  
Preliminary Review; Public Improvements;  
Tenant Improvements; Transportation; Wet

Taps; Water & Sewer, Zoning ..... (619) 446-5000  
Development & Permit Information, Submittal  
Appointments ..... (619) 446-5300  
Electrical Plan Check ..... (619) 446-5300  
Engineering Information ..... (619) 446-5460  
Engineering Project Close-Out, Time Extension,  
Bond Release ..... (619) 446-5363  
Facilities Financing ..... (619) 533-5950  
Fire Prevention New Construction Plan Check,  
Hazardous Materials Plan Check, Subdivision  
Review ..... (619) 446-5440  
Hazardous Materials Inspections  
..... (619) 533-4477  
Home Owners Night ..... (619) 446-5300  
Land Dev. Review Info. .... (619) 446-5460  
Master Plans ..... (619) 446-5052  
Over-The-Counter Plan Review  
Appointments ..... (619) 446-5300  
Plumbing/Mechanical  
Plan Check ..... (619) 446-5300  
Police Department Crime Prevention Through  
Design ..... (619) 531-2837  
Publications ..... (619) 446-5100  
Records ..... (619) 446-5200  
San Diego Regional Permit Assistance Center:  
CAL-EPA, Caltrans, Air Resources Control  
Board, Regional Water Quality, County Envi-  
ronmental Health Services, Air Pollution Con-  
trol, ..... (619) 236-5938  
Seismic/Geologic Hazards ..... (619) 446-5460  
Sign Permits ..... (619) 446-5300  
Structural Plan Check ..... (619) 446-5300  
Traffic Control Plan Check ..... (619) 446-5150  
Transportation Planning ..... (619) 235-5231

#### Schedule In Advance Services

New Construction, Relocation, Removal, Demo-  
lition Inspections ..... (858) 581-7111  
Engineering Field Inspections . (619) 627-3200

#### Service Locations

**Development Services Center, 1222 First Ave.**  
Development Services (Building Develop-  
ment Review, Information & Application Ser-  
vices, Land Development Review, Support  
Services).  
**Stadium/Kearny Mesa area, 9601 Ridgehaven**

Ct., Suite 220

Development Services Inspection Services:  
Selected permit issuance, reinspection fee  
payment (checks only), 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., of-  
fice open to 5. Construction, sign, demolition  
inspectors.

#### City Administration Building, 202 C St.

Planning Department (Long Range Plan-  
ning, Multiple Species Conservation Program,  
Transportation Planning, Facilities Financing)

#### Executive Complex, 1010 Second Ave.

Engineering and Capital Projects Dept.,  
Traffic Engineering.

#### Civic Center Plaza, 1200 Third Ave.

Neighborhood Code Compliance

**Community Service Centers** are located in  
many neighborhoods, including Clairemont,  
Market Street, Mid-City, Navajo, Otay Mesa/  
Nestor, Peninsula, Rancho Bernardo and San  
Ysidro. Call City Information at (619) 236-  
5555 for the nearest location and operating  
hours.